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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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MAY 9, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7983.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7983) granting a pension to Frances E. Wickware, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives hereto appended is adopted, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

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HOUSE REPORT.

Charles Wickware enlisted as a private in Company I, Sixth Vermont Volunteer Infantry, and served faithfully in said company as private and corporal until discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability February 6, 1865. He reenlisted as second lieutenant of Company B, Forty-third United States Colored Infantry, and served until mustered out October 20, 1865, and was honorably discharged at Philadelphia, Pa., November 30, 1865.

Charles Wickware was wounded at the battle of Savage Station, Va., June 29, 1862, the ball entering the left side and, passing through the body in the lumbar region, just above the kidneys, made its exit on the left side. He was left for dead upon the battlefield, taken prisoner, and sent to Libby Prison, where his wound was illy treated. He was exchanged, and after several months' treatment returned to duty, and at the battle of the Wilderness, Virginia, May 5, 1864, he received another severe gunshot wound of left arm, which was amputated near the shoulder joint in the field hospital, and for which he was discharged in February following.

He was pensioned from discharge—at various sums between \$8 and \$36, for loss of left arm, which he was receiving at time of his death—May 4, 1893. His death cause was certified from public records as due to “inflammation of the bowels; duration of disease, four days.”

Dr. C. I. Eberle, the attending physician, testified April 11, 1895:

“I attended Charles Wickware during his last illness, and his death was caused by paralysis of the bowels, superinduced by a gunshot wound through the lumbar region, or immediately above the kidneys. The plastic exudation, formed by cicatricial tissue in the region of the bowels, caused a constant inflammation or irritation of the nerves of the bowels, causing paralysis of the same. No other cause existed that would have resulted fatally. Paralysis existed from the time he was first taken sick; being complete, caused death.”

Claimant was married to soldier September 29, 1868, and four children, Elsie L., born May 31, 1879; Hattie B., born July 17, 1881; Katie B., born April 10, 1884, and Milton D., born November 3, 1888, were the fruits of the marriage.

The testimony presented shows that claimant is in feeble and delicate health, being a sufferer from rheumatism and disease of the heart, and has been confined to

her bed for several months from said diseases, and her family physician certifies "she is not likely to live until the time her pension is allowed, if taken up in regular order."

Her claim for pension was rejected February 3, 1896, on the ground that "death resulted from disease of bowels, not due to cause which has been legally accepted;" although the record shows that the chief of the special examination division and the legal reviewers accepted the gunshot wound of back as the death cause. The special examiner who investigated the case and the history of soldier's life and ailments since discharge says:

"I can not help but believe that the wound of back contributed, perhaps largely, to the death cause, and I believe the claim to be meritorious."

In view of all the facts presented, your committee recommend the passage of the bill with amendments, striking out the word "seventeen," in line 7, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "fifteen," and also by adding after the word "month," in line 8, "and two dollars per month for each minor child until they severally arrive at the age of sixteen years."

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